

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC

SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE UAE

REFERENCE: ABU DHABI 1551

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL PERSPECTIVE IN WHICH
AMBASSADOR DICKMAN HAS PLACED CURRENT TROUBLES IN UAE AND
COMMENDS HIS TIMELY REPRESENTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COHESION
IN UAE. REQUEST AMBASSADOR REMAIN IN CLOSE COORDINATION

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WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND IN CONSULTATION WITH IRANIAN
AND SAUDI EMBASSIES ON THIS QUESTION, REPORTING AS APPRO-
PRIATE.

2. IN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH LEADERS IN THE EMIRATES
AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WHILE USG HAS NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL POLITICS OF UAE AND NO SPECIFIC IDEAS ON WHAT IS BEST COURSE FOR UAE'S POLITICAL EVOLUTION, ON BASIS OUR OWN HISTORIC EXPERIENCE WE HAVE HAD A SPECIAL INTEREST IN AND SYMPATHY FOR UAE EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE FEDERATION. WE ARE PECULIARLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ALONG THE ROAD TO FEDERATION AND THE SIGNIFICANT ULTIMATE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED BY OVERCOMING THEM.

-- WE DO HAVE, HOWEVER, A VERY REAL INTEREST IN THE SECURITY AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE GULF AREA, AN INTEREST WE SHARE WITH UAE AND OTHER FRIENDLY REGIONAL STATES.

-- IN FURTHERING THIS COMMON INTEREST, USG HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE STATES OF THE REGION.

-- AS UAE LEADERS RECALL, IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS POLICY, USG WAS, ALONG WITH OTHER FRIENDLY STATES INTERESTED IN THE REGION'S WELFARE, STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE CONCEPT OF A "GREATER FEDERATION" OF ALL NINE LOWER GULF STATES EMERGING FROM THE PROTECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UK IN 1971, AND WE SHARED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE STATES INVOLVED THAT THIS LARGER FEDERATION COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED.

-- AT SAME TIME WE WELCOMED THE WISDOM OF THE SEVEN STATES
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WHICH DETERMINED TO FORM TOGETHER AS THE UAE.

-- IN INTERVENING YEARS USG HAS BEEN PLEASED THAT THE GULF STATES HAVE FLOURISHED AND THAT AS COOPERATION AMONG THE STATES HAS GROWN, THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED SECURITY AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT HAVE BECOME EVER STRONGER.

-- WE FEEL THE WILLINGNESS OF ALL SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE UAE TO MAINTAIN AND TO WORK TO BUILD THE FEDERATION HAS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF STABILITY AND COOPERATION IN THE GULF, AND HAVE ADMIRERD THE DETERMINATION OF THE MEMBER STATES TO GET ON WITH BUILDING A VIABLE UNION.

-- WE ARE AWARE THAT THE STATES OF THE GULF HAVE FELT IN RECENT MONTHS A GROWING SENSE OF CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE REGION'S SECURITY POSED BY EVENTS IN AFRO-ASIA OUTSIDE THE GULF ITSELF. THE USG IS ATTENTIVE TO THESE CONCERNS AND WISHES TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH AREA STATES ON THESE CONCERNS.

-- IF THERE IS, IN VIEW OF GULF STATES, CAUSE FOR HEIGHTENED

CONCERN ABOUT THE REGION'S SECURITY, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT RENEWED DETERMINATION ON PART OF UAE MEMBER STATES TO SUSTAIN FEDERATION WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SECURITY OF OVERALL STABILITY OF REGION.

3. FOR LONDON. YOU MAY WISH TO BRIEF FCO ON APPROACH WE ARE TAKING INDICATING OUR DESIRE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH BRITISH ON THE GROUND IN ABU DHABI.

4. FOR TEHRAN, JIDDA AND KUWAIT. REQUEST YOU BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON ABOVE APPROACH, NOTING THAT WHILE WE ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN UAE, WE DO THINK IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO BRING THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE TO BEAR TO
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HELP REVITALIZE DETERMINATION OF UAE STATES TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE UNION.

5. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES. AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION WISH TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON APPROACH WE ARE TAKING IN UAE.
CHRISTOPHER

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